

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION: PRESS RELEASE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PUBLICITY RELEASE WHICH WE PLAN
RELEASE WHEN LETTERS EXCHANGED AND PROTOCOL SIGNED. PLEASE
CLEAR TEXT WITH CHINESE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BEGIN TEXT
ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.
THE EXHIBITION OF CHINESE ART AND ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS
FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, SEEN IN EUROPE AND
CANADA DURING THE PAST 16 MONTHS, WILL COME TO THE UNITED
STATES AND GO ON VIEW THE SECOND WEEK OF DECEMBER, 1974,
AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE EXHIBITION ALSO WILL BE SEEN IN THE SPRING OF 1975 AT
THE NELSON GALLERY-ATKINS MUSEUM IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.
THE OBJECTS WILL THEN BE RETURNED TO PEKING.

THE SOME 380 ANCIENT TREASURES INCLUDE THE NOW-FAMOUS
FLYING HORSE OF KANSU (FIRST CENTURY A.D.) AND THE JADE AND
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GOLD SHROUD OF PRINCESS TOU WAN (LATE SECOND CENTURY B.C.)

THE TRAVELLING ASSEMBLAGE REPRESENTS THE CHOICES OF THOUSANDS OF OBJECTS EXCAVATED IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FROM 1949 TO 1972. INCLUDED ARE BRONZES, POTTERY, PORCELAINS AND TEXTILES RANGING FROM PREHISTORY TO THE

YUAN DYNASTY ENDING IN THE LATE FOURTEENTH CENTURY A.D.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE ONE OF THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL ART LOANS TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES. THE TRANSPORT REQUIRES EXTRAORDINARY PACKING AND TRAVEL PROVISIONS. PACKED IN SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED CASES FITTED WITH SHOCK-ABSORBING MATERIALS, THE EXHIBITION WEIGHS 13 TONS AND WILL BE BROUGHT TO WASHINGTON FROM CANADA. FOUR CURATORS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL BE ACCOMPANYING THE EXHIBITION DURING ITS STAY IN THE UNITED STATES.

ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAVE BEEN MADE IN PEKING BY THE UNITED STATES LIAISON OFFICE IN CHINA. IN THE UNITED STATES, PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXHIBITION ARE BEING HANDLED BY THE STAFFS OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART AND THE NELSON GALLERY-ATKINS MUSEUM WITH SUPPORT FROM THE STAFF OF THE FREER GALLERY OF ORIENTAL ART AND IN COORDINATION WITH THE LIAISON OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

THE VISIT OF THE EXHIBITION TO THE U.S. IS A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES ENVISAGED BY THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE OF FEBRUARY 1972. PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WAS WORKED OUT DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S FALL 1973 VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

GENEROUS GRANTS TOWARD THE EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE EXHIBITION HAVE BEEN PROVIDED THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINE CORPORATION AND THE NELSON GALLERY-ATKINS MUSEUM BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES. PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS GENEROUSLY AGREED TO RETURN THE EXHIBITS FROM KANSAS CITY TO PEKING. END TEXT. 4

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